

21st October 1966.

T.J. Wilson Esq.,
Harvard University Press,
79 Garden Street,
Cambridge,
Massachusetts 02138,
U.S.A.

Dear Mr Wilson,

I don't think you quite understand the position. Of course Wilkins and I may have to sue Watson for libel, but apart from that a moral issue is involved. When a piece of work is published in collaboration it is considered very bad form for one author to reveal in public how the work was divided. Naturally if all the authors consent to this it is quite acceptable. In this case, however, both Wilkins and I object to Watson's account for reasons which any scholar will understand. In the circumstances if Watson insists on publishing his book against our wishes the scientific community will look upon it as an act of bad manners and bad faith, to say the least.

Of course that is up to him. However what is regrettable is that the Harvard University Press should be a party to it. The purely literary value of this work is in fact rather low. A number of people who have read it consider it to be poorly written and in bad taste. It will be bought mainly because of the tittle-tattle and the scandal. I can foresee that your book-list will become known as "True Confessions". Is this what you want?

Yours sincerely,

F.H.C. Crick.

Copy to Prof. E. Mayr.